



A Partnership Journey

First Nations Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program

awabakal

nib
foundation

phn
HUNTER NEW ENGLAND
AND CENTRAL COAST
An Australian Government Initiative

**PRIMARY
HEALTH
NETWORK**



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The Partners



- Created in 2008 with the charitable purpose of **advancing health**
- Formed as a trust following a \$25m donation from nib
- Partnered with more than 205 charities and NFP



- Newcastle based Community controlled **health service**
- Delivers culturally appropriate health care services, advocacy and social and emotional support
- Over 40 years of providing services and now a leading medical provide.



- One of 31 independent not for profit Primary Health Networks
- Supporting a population of 1.5m people across 23 LGAs
- 100m income to fund and support primary **health care**

The challenge that drew us together.....



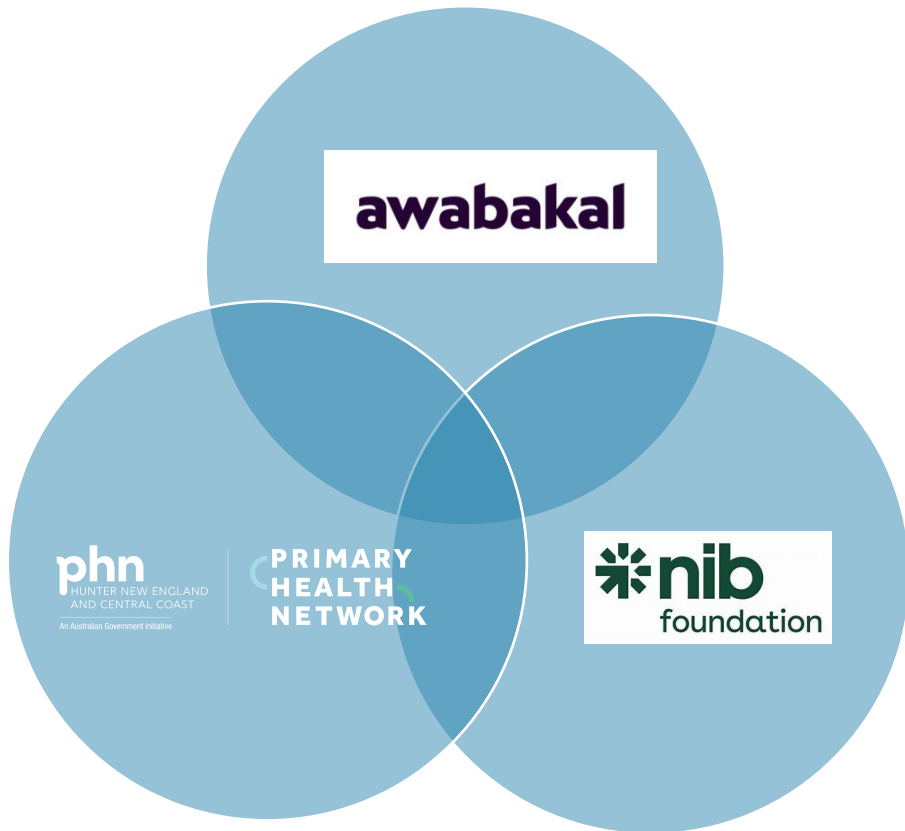
- Poorer health outcomes for First Nations people
- First Nations health a priority area for PHNs
- Awabakal AMS a leading provider of First Nations health services in the region
- Social and emotional wellbeing is foundational for First Nations physical and mental health
- Awabakal and the PHN worked to co-design the Social and Emotional Wellbeing program



- The HNECC PHN and Awabakal program was proving to be very successful and was quickly over subscribed.
- Gaps were identified that could enrich the program and amplify the impact.
- This included brokerage elements and the employment of an additional social worker resource.
- It was flagged that the initiative would benefit from further funding that the PHN could not provide.



The Foundations of the Partnership



- ✓ First Nations designed and led
- ✓ Holistic & strengths based
- ✓ Culturally safe
- ✓ Respectful and flexible partnership
- ✓ Local - near our nib locations
- ✓ Support nib's RAP



Vision: Live longer in better health

Mission: Reduce the chronic disease burden on individuals, populations and the health system by investing in partnerships that promote prevention and enable equity

nib foundation Strategic Intent

PHN Strategic Intent

Purpose

Healthy First Nations people families, and communities.

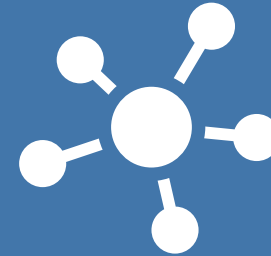
- Target Area One: Fostering engagement, relationships and connections with First Nations health providers and communities
- Target Area Two: Commissioning Culturally Responsive Health Services
- Target Area Three: Addressing Health Inequities and Improving Health Outcomes
- Target Area Four: Supporting and Growing a First Nations Workforce

The elements that make it work



Committed
Partnerships that
evolve over time

A common goal
Alignment in values
and mission
Willingness to think
laterally
Working together



Partnership Managers
First Nations led
Clinical Input
Commissioning team
Business Development
Executive Sponsorship

Partnership model
focused on
collaboration

Ensuring no additional
reporting for Awabakal

Commitment to
working through issues





Our successes

- Impact immediate with a doubling of client numbers
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing groups almost tripled in number
- Expanding one-on-one care coordination and peer navigation
- Use of flexible funding to overcome barriers to access and procurement of equipment, resources and excursions.





Our challenges

valuing relationships - shared meaning - lateral thinking - sustainability

The future





Thank you & Questions